CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS

MANUFACTURIERS & EXPORTATEURS DU CANADA

February 17, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Ms. Andrea Horvarth
Leader, Official Opposition
ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca

Mr. Steven Del Duca
Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
info.leader@ontarioliberal.ca

Mr. Mike Schreiner
Leader, Green Party of Ontario
Mschreiner@ola.org

Re: Legislation to Secure Ontario's Critical Infrastructure

Dear Premier and Party Leaders:

On behalf of Ontario's manufacturing sector, I am writing to urge the quick introduction and passage of legislation that will protect Ontario's critical economic infrastructure.

Manufacturing is essential to Ontario and its people– accounting for approximately 30 per cent of economic output and 750,000 jobs. Manufacturers depend on reliable trade routes to secure key inputs and export their products to customers around the world. Without them, they cannot operate.

Too often in the past, the sector has faced significant production, employment, and trade problems because access to critical economic infrastructure has been restricted or completely blocked. CME has long called for protection of critical economic infrastructure for fear of significant disruptions.

The actions over the past several weeks at the Ambassador Bridge has highlighted the urgency of action. While traffic flows have resumed, the disruptions and associated economic losses call for a more proactive approach. We must ensure that no other critical infrastructures can be impeded by blockades or protests to help restore business confidence in Ontario as a reliable trade partner. CME believes all levels of government must protect critical economic infrastructure that our sector and others rely on including bridges, airports, ports of entries, railways, utilities, and highways.

As such, CME is urging provincial parties provide unanimous and immediate support to legislation to this effect.

Sincerely,

Dennis Darby, P. Eng., ICD.D
President and CEO

Cc: The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade